

**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
UNITED STATES CELLULAR
REQUEST FOR ETC DESIGNATION
DOCKET NO. 2004-246**

LOCAL WITNESS TESTIMONY

Bingham

**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DOCKET NO. 2004-246

**US CELLULAR
RE: APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER
UNDER 47 U.S.C § 214(e)(2)**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF JIM BATEY**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Jim Batey. I am the Economic Development Director at Somerset Economic Development Corporation. My business address is 41 Court Street Skowhegan, Maine 04976.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Bingham?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Bingham. US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify to receive funding from the Universal Service Fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission determines that US Cellular is eligible for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Bingham and other parts of rural Maine.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Bingham area?

A3. Yes. There is currently no cell service in the town of Bingham. I hear frequent

complaints about the lack of service from tourists, local residents and business people. The lack of cell service is a real detriment to the economic health of the area.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. The availability of cell service would certainly be a benefit to the business community of Bingham. The lack of cell service really inhibits the economic growth that is so needed in this region. Businesses would be more likely to locate in this area if they had access to technology such as cellular service and broadband. Provided US Cellular will be able to minimize the visual impact of any new facility from Route 201, a National Scenic Highway, I would welcome the expansion of cellular service into the town of Bingham and endorse US Cellular's efforts to become eligible for the funding that would enable them to expand into this region.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF SHERIFF BARRY
DELONG**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Barry DeLong. I have been the Sheriff of Somerset County for the last ten years. Prior to that I was a state trooper for twenty years. My business address is 41 Court St. Skowhegan, Maine 04976. I live in Cornville, Maine.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Bingham?

A2. Yes. I am aware of the fact that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine. I understand that US Cellular is applying to the Maine Public Utilities Commission for eligibility to receive federal funds. If US Cellular can gain access to these funds, it will be able to provide cellular service in Bingham, something that we really need up here.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Bingham area?

A3. Yes. All of our patrol deputies' transport vehicles are equipped with cellular phones, and have been for the last seven or eight years. There is hit or miss service throughout the area we cover, but Bingham is the worst of all. It is totally dead and you can never get a call out.

Q4. Have you and your officers faced any problems because of the lack of cellular service in the area?

A4. We experience problems every day because of the lack of cellular service. On our best day we have three officers covering an area that spans 3,000 square miles. Our county is unique in that fully 40% of the population lives outside of towns in very rural areas. Because of the lack of cell service we waste valuable time traveling 50 or 100 miles when a single phone call might solve the problem. The Route 201 corridor is heavily traveled and there are frequent accidents. All of my officers travel alone and they really need to be able to communicate with dispatch, with complainants, with other law enforcement personnel and with health and safety personnel. Just last week, there was a fatal car accident on 201. Three young boys were killed and we couldn't put their names out on the radio because of confidentiality reasons. In many locations, we don't even have radio service so the lack of cellular service means we can't reach anyone at all. We are forced to go look for the closest landline. You can imagine what a problem this is when you have a single officer on the scene. When we are called to a domestic situation, there are many times when the phone is torn right out of the wall or the people don't even have a phone. This means the officer has no way whatsoever of even calling for an ambulance or for backup.

Q5. How would the availability of cellular service affect your work and your community?

A5. Having cell service would really help us out up here. As I said, my officers all travel alone. If they are called to a domestic situation it could be lifesaving if they could contact the complainant to find out how serious the situation is – does the guy have a gun, or a knife? If my officers could get this information they would know whether they should call for back up. There are also many seasonal people who have camps in this area. If they are elderly and have a heart attack or

something, the cell service could literally be a lifeline. In the winter it often gets down to 20 or 30 degrees below zero around here and your chances of hitting a moose or a deer are pretty good. If someone's car breaks down or they have an accident in that kind of weather, they might not see another car for two hours. In these kinds of situations, cellular service can save lives very easily. Furthermore, this area is becoming very popular tourist destination for white water rafting and snowmobiling. We need to be able to respond well to emergencies arising out of those activities. I also have some major concerns related to homeland security.

Q5. Can you explain?

A5. Yes. The Wyman dam is located just north of Bingham in Moscow on the Kennebec River. This is a major hydroelectric facility and could be the target of terrorist activity. If the dam were blown out, the entire town of Skowhegan would be submerged under twenty feet of water. Currently, there is no cellular service out at the dam and radio service is spotty. If we are going to be able to respond to a major emergency at the dam, the ability to communicate via cell phone is crucial.

We really need cellular service in the Bingham area and I support US Cellular's efforts to become eligible to receive the funding necessary to bring service to Bingham.

Q6. Does this complete your testimony?

A6. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF CLYDE DYAR**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Clyde Dyar. I am the Director of the Thomas M. Teague Biotechnology Center of Maine and the Treasurer of the International Northeast Biotechnology Corridor (both in Fairfield, Maine). I am also the owner of Meadow Brook Consulting, in Mount Vernon, Maine, and I provide business and economic development consulting services. I am currently running for a seat in the Maine Senate for District 18. My business address is P.O. Box 149, Fairfield, Maine 04937. I live in Mount Vernon, Maine, and I run my consulting business out of Mount Vernon.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Bingham and surrounding areas?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I understand that they are intending to improve service in various parts of rural Maine including Bingham. I understand that US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from the federal Universal Service Fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application and it receives the necessary funds,

it will be able to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to provide cellular service in Bingham.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Bingham area?

A3. Yes. I travel extensively between Fairfield and Canada along Route 201, and average about 65,000 miles per year. The cellular service between Skowhegan and Jackman is very limited and this lack of reliability inhibits my business capabilities tremendously. Providing reliable service to Bingham would at least begin to address the problems of inadequate cell service along this important highway.

I would also like to see improved cell service in the area between my home and business in Mount Vernon and the Center in Fairfield. There is absolutely no service between these points, and service is spotty in the outlying areas of Fairfield. Additionally, it is almost impossible to get cellular reception when traveling north on Route 139. Therefore, I have to plan my routes carefully so that if I need to make or receive a call, I will be in an area where I can do so. A new cell tower in Bingham would, as I stated above, be a big step toward improving the situation on Route 201.

Q4. What is the nature of your business and how is it impacted by the poor quality of cellular service in the Fairfield area?

A4. In my role as Director of the Thomas M. Teague Biotechnology Center of Maine and Treasurer of the International Northeast Biotechnology Corridor, I am involved in a collaborative effort to market the Corridor and the Teague Center and what they contain to the outside world. We work with many large international companies, including companies from Canada, France, China and Japan. Executives that come to this area need to be able to communicate effectively while they

are with us and they all rely on cellular phones. As a business and economic development consultant, it is very important that I be available to contact my clients by cellular phone. Also, I need to be able to communicate by cellular phone between the Biotechnology Center in Fairfield and my home and business in Mount Vernon, as well as surrounding areas. Currently, this is impossible because of the patchy service. In addition, my efforts to help clients develop the business community of this area are greatly impeded by the unreliability of cellular service. Everyone else in the world is doing business by cell phone and businesses will not want to locate in this area if they cannot compete due to the lack of such a vital resource. The lack of cellular service really puts the business community of Fairfield and surrounding areas at a disadvantage.

I applaud US Cellular for wanting to move forward and expand cellular service into the Bingham area and wholeheartedly endorse their application before the Maine Public Utilities Commission to become eligible to receive the necessary funding. In addition, I hope that sufficient funds will eventually become available so as to permit US Cellular to improve service between Fairfield and Mount Vernon.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
SENATOR PAMELA
HATCH**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Pamela Hatch and I live in Skowhegan, Maine. I represent District 13 in the Maine Senate. Prior to becoming a state senator, I served on the Skowhegan School Board. Thereafter, I represented the Skowhegan area in the Maine House from 1992 until 2000. I am completing my second term in the Senate, where I chair the Transportation Committee, and am seeking re-election in the fall. The Town of Bingham is in my District.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular's proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Bingham?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine, and I understand that the company intends to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Bingham. US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify to receive funding from the Universal Service Fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission determines that US Cellular is eligible for this funding, it will be able

to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Bingham and other parts of rural Maine.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in your District?

A3. Yes. I am now campaigning for the Maine Senate for the third time and that requires me to travel throughout the area. I have made several trips to Bingham and there is no cell service there at all. This really concerns me as I often drive long distances to Bingham by myself and I worry that I will get into an accident and be unable to contact anyone. This is not just a theoretical problem. My husband and I have had two very close calls with moose in the road at night in that area and we frequently see them alongside the road. When you encounter a moose in the road at night, the moose suddenly appears before you can do anything about it, so collisions can be just about unavoidable. In areas without cell service, people who get into accidents on the road are completely at the mercy of whoever might happen to drive by. And in the Bingham area, you could wait quite a while before a car comes by at night.

In addition, I know from personal experience that getting into auto accidents on cold days in Maine can be dangerous. On January 14 of this year with the temperature at 7 degrees below zero with a 26 below zero wind chill, I was driving to Augusta with my husband when an oncoming truck slid into us on the ice on Route 202 in Winthrop. The accident happened at eight o'clock in the morning and a Kennebec County Sheriff arrived on the scene fairly promptly, but the temperature in the car went down very quickly and we were freezing cold in the car before he came. My husband had broken both his knee cap and his ankle, and bones were exposed in both areas. It took 50 minutes to extricate us from the car with the Jaws of Life and we thought we would freeze to death

before they pulled us from the wreckage. So I am very familiar with sitting in the cold waiting for emergency personnel to arrive.

I also believe that expanding cell service in my District would help with business development. People in Portland have cell service and just assume that it's everywhere, but in my District having cell service is the exception to the rule. Somerset County has lost numerous jobs over the past few years, especially in the small towns north of Madison and Skowhegan. We need to improve the attractiveness of our business climate by having good cell service. Also, we are working hard to develop tourism, and the lack of cell service hurts us there as well. Our visitors need and expect cell service so that they can stay in touch with their business and families back home.

I would urge the Commission to move this case forward as quickly as possible so that US Cellular can follow through on its plans to get cell service in Bingham.

Q4. Does this complete your testimony?

A4. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF ANDY JACQUES**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Andy Jacques. I am the owner of Andy's Silkscreen in downtown Bingham. I also belong to the Bingham Volunteer Fire Department. My business address is: 322 Main Street Bingham, Maine 04920, and I live at 268 Main Street in Bingham. I have operated my business in Bingham for 21 years and have been a firefighter for 4 years.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Bingham?

A2. Yes. US Cellular is a cellular service provider and I understand they are proposing to provide and improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Bingham. I understand that US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify to receive federal funds that would enable them to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Bingham and other areas in Maine.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Bingham area?

A3. Yes. There is no service whatsoever in the town of Bingham. Operating a business on Main Street downtown, I hear complaints every day from customers, salespeople, delivery

people, police, firefighters and EMTs about the lack of cellular service in Bingham. Approximately five people come into my business each day needing to borrow my phone because they can't get any service. Particularly, UPS and Federal Express are unable to use their delivery tracking system because they don't have cell service.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect you and your community?

A4. The ability to access cell service would be of tremendous benefit to the entire community of Bingham. Right now I am particularly concerned about the inability of safety personnel, such as EMTs, firefighters and police to communicate effectively without cellular service. I am a firefighter and just the other day I was tuned in to the radio and an ambulance was headed into an area where there was no radio coverage and so they were without the ability to communicate at all. Cellular service would take care of that problem and also provide for the benefit of confidential communication between safety personnel, something that is not available on the radio. There are also a lot of vacationers who are out on the trails in potentially dangerous situations. The safety of our community and the people who visit here would be so much improved with cellular service.

In addition, access to cellular service would benefit my business and other businesses in Bingham. Salespeople and customers who visit my business would have access to their cell phones, thus making Bingham a better place to do business. I have not subscribed to a cellular plan because of the lack of service, but if there were service, I would be able to use a cell phone in the course of my daily business.

As a Bingham taxpayer, business owner and firefighter, I endorse US Cellular's proposal to bring cellular service to rural areas of Maine and support its efforts to secure the necessary federal funding.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF JEANETTE JACQUES**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Jeanette Jacques. I am a co-owner of Jacques Distributors which provides auto parts and heavy equipment parts. I have also been an EMT with the Upper Kennebec Valley Ambulance Service for thirty years. My business address is 241 Main Street, P.O. Box 136 Bingham, ME 04920. I live in Bingham, Maine.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Bingham?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Bingham. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary improvements to expand service into Bingham.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Bingham area?

A3. Yes. There is almost no cell service in Bingham. When you get three miles north of town there is no cell service and no radio either so you are entirely without communication. All of our ambulances are equipped with cell phones but in Bingham we are not able to use them. I don't have a personal cell phone because they aren't usable here.

Q4. How has the lack of cellular service in Bingham impacted your work as an EMT?

A4. The lack of cellular service is a real hazard for the ambulance service. Not having cell service really impacts our ability to provide good care and at times it is life threatening to our patients and to us as EMTs

Q5. Can you explain?

A5. Yes. Without cellular service we are unable to communicate with various people. We can't call for backup if a patient is more seriously injured than we had thought. In order to dispense certain medications we need to get approval first from an emergency room doctor. We can't reach the hospital to do this when we have no cellular service. Just a year or so ago I was called to the scene of an accident. A log truck had tipped over. Usually when this happens, the driver is not badly hurt, so I went with only an unlicensed driver and was the only EMT on the scene. When we got there we saw that the truck had tipped over onto a car and the driver of the car was very severely injured. She was a patient that should have been taken out by LifeFlight, the critical response medical helicopter service, but our cell phone wouldn't work so we couldn't call them. This patient was truly jeopardized because of the lack of cell service. I couldn't even call for backup. I ended up having to crawl back and forth under the truck to get supplies as I didn't even have someone to fetch things for me. Eventually we transported the patient to Skowhegan Hospital which is 25 miles away. From there she was later moved to Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor

where she would have been taken by LifeFlight had we been able to make a call. All this wasted precious time.

Q6. How would the availability of cellular service impact your business?

A6. The availability of cellular service in our area would really help our business. We cater mostly to woodwork business and so our customers are rarely near a landline. They need to be able to reach us from wherever they are to let us know what parts they need. Cellular service in Bingham would be a great benefit to the whole community. Therefore, I support US Cellular's application to receive the federal funding needed to expand into this area.

Q7. Does this complete your testimony?

A7. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF REPRESENTATIVE
MONICA MCGLOCKLIN**

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Monica McGlocklin. I have just completed my third term as a member of the Maine House of Representatives. I represent District 66 which includes the towns of Bingham and Moscow. My home address is 930 Embden Pond Road, Embden, Maine 04958. I am employed as a sales and marketing representative at MBNA.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Bingham?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Bingham. US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify to receive funding from the Universal Service Fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission determines that US Cellular is eligible for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Bingham and other parts of rural Maine.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Bingham area?

A3. Yes. There is currently no cell service in the town of Bingham at all. In fact, there is no service at all in my entire district, with the exception of one small area. I myself used to have a cellular phone for emergencies but I gave it up because of the lack of service.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. In my capacity as representative of the town of Bingham, I know that the proposed improvements to local cellular service will positively affect the Bingham area. The lack of cell service in Bingham has had a very negative impact on health and safety services because of the inability of health and safety personnel to engage in vital communications with each other. In addition, cellular service in Bingham would have a positive impact on the business community and the prospects of attracting new businesses to Bingham. Businesses tend to stay away from communities that don't have cell service as cell service is becoming more and more vital to the operation of a successful business.

I am aware that the community as a whole is at a disadvantage from both a business and safety standpoint because of the lack of cell service in the Bingham area. The access to service would be of tremendous benefit to the town of Bingham and I therefore strongly support US Cellular's efforts to secure the necessary federal funding which will enable it to bring cellular service to the town of Bingham

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF WRIGHT PINKHAM**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Wright Pinkham. For 28 years, I was a District Supervisor for the Maine Department of Transportation. I then spent three years working in a management role for Somerset County, Maine. I am now retired, and I am currently running for election in Maine House District 88, which includes the town of Bingham. I live in Lexington Township, just outside of Bingham, Maine.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Bingham?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine, and I have been advised that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine, including Bingham. US Cellular has filed an application in this proceeding with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify to receive funding from the Universal Service Fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission determines that US Cellular is eligible for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Bingham and other parts of rural Maine.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in Bingham?

A3. Yes. Unfortunately, the Town of Bingham is, for the most part, a dead spot as far as cellular service. For both safety and convenience reasons, this could be a problem.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. Having spent most of my career working for the government, I am fully aware of the safety advantages that consistent, reliable cellular phone service could provide, improving communication within various departments, such as police, fire, utilities, public works, transportation, park rangers, game wardens, etc. People up here often engage in dangerous occupations, working alone in remote outdoor areas, for example. Also, people often enjoy recreational activities that might be dangerous, such as nighttime snowmobiling. If somebody had an accident or a vehicle broke down, a landline from which to call for help could be miles away. Further, with the harsh weather we often have up here, complete with ice and snow storms, landlines are not always up and running even if you are close to a land phone. Cellular service could provide the necessary link to safety in these situations.

With most of the world using cellular phones, it would be great to connect our community to the same convenient resource. Improved cellular service would help rural areas of Maine keep up with and feel more connected to the rest of the world. I live in Lexington Township, and, although Bingham is the closest town, there is no road connecting Bingham to Lexington. It would be nice to be able to at least connect to Bingham through cellular service, particularly when traveling.

For these reasons, I support US Cellular's Application for ETC designation in this case.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF DAVID ROSENBERG**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is David Rosenberg. I am a co-Director of the Upper Kennebec Valley Ambulance Service which serves Bingham, Moscow and the surrounding area and Northern Somerset County. My business address is 241 Main Street, P.O. Box 432 Bingham, ME 04920. I live in Moscow, Maine.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Bingham?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Bingham. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary improvements to expand service into Bingham.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Bingham area?

A3. Yes. There is almost no cell service in the Bingham area. We have equipped all of

our rigs with cell phones just in case there is service where we are. It is hit or miss, but almost always miss.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. If we get cell service in Bingham it would allow my ambulance service to communicate with hospitals, patients, family, police, dispatch and LifeFlight. As it stands now there are many times when we could really use cell service. Occasionally we get bad directions and we are out there in the ambulance looking for a house. Because we can't get cell service, we are unable to call back to get the right directions. This lengthens our response time considerably. Often, when we are responding to an emergency, one of our people has to go searching for a phone when we really could use that person helping with the patient. We really need to be able to contact hospitals to communicate with doctors and other caregivers but given the lack of cell service in the area, we usually can't. I can remember one time when we were called to the Appalachian trail. A hiker was much more severely injured than we had realized. We desperately needed more help but were unable to get it because our cell phone wouldn't work. If a similar situation were to come up in the Bingham area after US Cellular makes the improvements they are hoping to make, we could call for more help and we could provide much better care to the patient, potentially saving a life that might otherwise be lost.

Q5. Does your ambulance service utilize LifeFlight?

A5. Yes, we've been using LifeFlight for approximately four years. Life Flight is a statewide critical response medical helicopter service. Their two helicopters transport critically ill or injured patients to wherever the necessary care is available. This service is particularly important in rural areas like Bingham, where we are far from the larger hospitals that can handle certain critical

injuries and illnesses. It is essentially the best alternative to building a large state-of-the-art hospital right here in the Bingham area. However, there are many occasions when we are responding to a call which is serious enough to warrant using LifeFlight but we cannot contact them to tell them where the landing site is because our cell phones don't work. Thus we lose critical minutes.

Having cell service in the Bingham area would greatly improve our ability to respond to emergencies. This is something that we really need in this area. We do have radios, of course, but those are also unreliable depending on where you are.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF STEVE STEWARD**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Steve Steward. I am a member of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Bingham. My business address is P.O. Box 652, Bingham, Maine 04920.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Bingham?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Bingham. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Bingham.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Bingham area?

A3. Yes. We have no cell service at all in the town of Bingham. This is something I have been very concerned about and for the last year and a half I have engaged in efforts to attract the

attention of our U.S. and Maine Senators and Representatives to this serious problem. I have also filed a complaint with the F.C.C. I say this is a serious problem because the town of Bingham is situated on a major thoroughfare, Route 201. Most of the commerce from Canada comes through here. In addition we have a great number of tourists traveling back and forth from Canada on Route 201. If there is an accident on the road, critical minutes are lost as accident victims or onlookers will probably have to drive four to five minutes to get to a home to call 911. Then, when emergency personnel get to an accident scene, they are unable to communicate with hospitals or dispatch. Even though we have so much traffic coming through this area, we are still in the dark ages as far as communication is concerned. Cellular service is something that is vitally needed in this area.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. The provision of cellular service in Bingham is entirely in the best interests of our community. From a business standpoint, the economic development of the region depends on having the required infrastructure, such as cellular service, to support a thriving business community. In addition, we have many tourists coming through this area, and most of them travel with cell phones. The availability of cellular service would make this a more attractive tourist destination.

Further, emergency services rely on the availability of reliable modes of communication. Being located along Route 201, we have a great deal of traffic coming through our community with the resulting increased risk of traffic-related accidents. In fact, traffic has nearly doubled because of the designation of a scenic byway, and the demand on our emergency services is being stretched, even without the communication problems. Improved communication would help reduce delays associated with emergency calls. Time does matter, especially if it's your family. Further, we really need to be able to provide for the safety of the people who come through our region, including wood

workers, whitewater rafters, truck drivers, and tourists. However, we cannot do that when emergency personnel are unable to communicate with one another. With many accidents on our highway (Route 201), being able to communicate with E911 would be a great help to be able to make a phone call to E911 from the highway, especially considering the often very long distances involved between homes or businesses.

The Board of Selectmen for the Town of Bingham has endorsed this position. At our meeting on August 17, 2004, the Board adopted a Resolution Supporting US Cellular's Application for Universal Service Funding. In that meeting we discussed US Cellular's proposed expansion into the Bingham area and how it would impact our community. I have attached a copy of this Resolution as Exhibit Steward-1 to this Testimony. We do want the tower to be non-conspicuous and non-intrusive because we are located on a federally-designated Scenic Byway (another reason why we need a tower). As a resident and Selectman for the Town of Bingham, I wholeheartedly endorse US Cellular's application for Universal Service Funding and encourage the Public Utilities Commission to approve its application.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING US CELLULAR'S APPLICATION FOR UNIVERSAL
SERVICE FUNDING**

WHEREAS, US Cellular has submitted an application to the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Maine (PUC) seeking to qualify for funding from the federal Universal Services Fund, and

WHEREAS, US Cellular will represent to the PUC that, should it obtain PUC certification and become eligible for such funding, it will extend its cellular network to provide US Cellular service in the Town of Bingham, and

WHEREAS, the extension of US Cellular service to Bingham is a matter affecting the health, safety and well-being of the citizens of Bingham,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Bingham hereby adopts the following Resolution:

Resolved, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Bingham finds and declares that the extension of US Cellular service in the Town of Bingham would be in the public interest of the citizens of the Town. The availability of US Cellular service would

- (1) further the efficient delivery of basic services in the Town, including life saving fire, police and emergency medical service;
- (2) provide competition for the existing cellular and local (wire line) service providers in the Town;
- (3) contribute to the basic telecommunications infrastructure in the Town of Bingham and thereby enhance the Town's ability to retain its existing businesses and attract new businesses; and
- (4) improve mobile services in the Town, to the benefit of both Townspeople and through travelers.

Steven Steward is hereby authorized to deliver this resolution to the Public Utilities Commission in support of US Cellular's application and to testify on behalf of the Town at any proceeding held by the Commission to consider US Cellular's application.

Selectmen, Town of Bingham

Steven L. Steward
Frank C. Longley
Charles J. [Signature]

8/17/04

**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DOCKET NO. 2004-246

**US CELLULAR
RE: APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER
UNDER 47 U.S.C § 214(e)(2)**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF PAUL TESSIER**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Paul Tessier. I am the President and CEO of the International Northeast Biotech Corridor which seeks to promote the development of biotechnology businesses in New England and eastern Canada. I previously served three terms in the Maine House of Representatives, and I am currently running for election in Maine House District 88, which includes the towns of Bingham and Moscow. This is the seat currently held by Representative Monica McGlocklin. My business address is 41 Western Avenue, Fairfield, Maine 04937.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Bingham?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I have been advised that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Bingham. US Cellular has filed an application in this proceeding with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify to receive funding from the Universal Service Fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission determines that US Cellular is eligible for this funding, it will be

able to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Bingham and other parts of rural Maine.

Q3. From your own knowledge, can you comment on the availability of mobile service in Bingham?

A3. Yes. At this time there is no service in Bingham. I consider this to be a significant problem for two reasons.

Q. 4. Please explain.

A. 4 My primary concern is safety. I have heard numerous stories and reports about people relying on cell phone service in emergency situations such as car accidents or heart attacks in remote areas. Having mobile service available allows the immediate dispatch of public safety personnel such as fire fighters, police and emergency medical technicians.

Next, I believe that the availability of cell service could be a significant factor in attracting businesses. The Bingham region is in need of significant economic development, and the local people there have made this a high priority. However, the lack of cell service hampers their efforts, putting them at a significant disadvantage over the competition. Having cell service would remove this disadvantage.

For these reasons I support US Cellular's Application for ETC designation in this case.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DOCKET NO. 2004-246

**US CELLULAR
RE: APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER
UNDER 47 U.S.C § 214(e)(2)**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF KIRK TOTH**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Kirk S. Toth. I live in Norridgewock and my office is located in Skowhegan. I am employed by FPL Energy as its Production Leader for FPLE's Kennebec Hydro system. In that capacity I manage FPLE's hydro-electric facilities along the Kennebec River including the Weston Hydro Facility in Skowhegan, the Williams Hydro Facility in Embden and Solon, the Wyman Hydro Facility in Moscow, just north of Bingham, and the Indian Pond Hydro Facility located in the Indian Stream Township north of The Forks.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Bingham?

A2. Yes. US Cellular is a cellular service provider and I understand they are proposing to provide and improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Bingham. I understand that US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify to receive federal funds that would enable them to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Bingham and other areas in Maine.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Bingham area?

A3. Cell coverage in Bingham is non-existent currently. Our trucks are equipped with radios which do not work in this area either. A pager will work given the most optimum conditions, which are rare occurrences.

Having cell service in Bingham would certainly benefit FPLE as far as communication in and around Wyman Hydro during normal day-to-day operations. It would also benefit us during emergency situations. For instance, if a crew member or contractor were to get hurt while

working on the dam, having cell phone coverage could expedite the response of emergency personnel. Currently, one would have to return to the powerhouse to phone for emergency service, possibly resulting in unwanted delays. With a cell phone, help could be requested immediately.

We are currently using cell phones for communication in all of the trucks operating out of our Skowhegan maintenance facility, and are very pleased with our ability to communicate with each other. Having cell service at Wyman Hydro could be critically important in an emergency situation, and it will also help in many of our daily operations.

Q4. Does this complete your testimony?

A4. Yes.

**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
UNITED STATES CELLULAR
REQUEST FOR ETC DESIGNATION
DOCKET NO. 2004-246**

LOCAL WITNESS TESTIMONY

Fort Fairfield

**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DOCKET NO. 2004-246

**US CELLULAR
RE: APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER
UNDER 47 U.S.C § 214(e)(2)**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF JOSEPH BUBAR**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Joseph Bubar. I am the Police Chief for the Town of Fort Fairfield Police Department. My business address is P.O. Box 350, Fort Fairfield, Maine 04742.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Fort Fairfield?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I understand that they intend to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Fort Fairfield. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal grant. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary improvements to expand service into Fort Fairfield.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in Fort Fairfield?

A3. Yes. It is terrible. There is almost no cell service in Fort Fairfield. All of Main Street is a dead spot. You just have to be in exactly the right spot standing exactly the right way in order to get a signal in Fort Fairfield. Then, even if you do get a signal, because we are so close to

Canada, we often get roaming long distance charges. For instance, we have a toll-free number that we use to contact the state police from cellular phones, but often times the call will go through as a long-distance roaming charge, or the call simply will not go through.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. The Department is currently equipped with at least three cellular phones.

However, they rarely work in Fort Fairfield. Having consistent cellular service would save officers time on a daily basis, as the officers would be able to make phone calls from their police cars, instead of having to go back to the station to a landline. Not only would this convenience save time, but town safety would increase as well. For example, we have had several stand-offs in town, where suspects have called the police department threatening to murder somebody or to commit suicide. (These are usually domestic violence cases or cases involving people with diminished mental capacity or substance abuse problems.) If officers could rely on cellular phones in these situations, they could establish the whereabouts of suspects by locating their landlines. Further, officers could have one-on-one contact with suspects, even speaking to suspects without them knowing that the officers are in fact right outside of the premises.

Additionally, when people call the police dispatcher to make complaints, which are then dispatched to officers over the radio, cellular phone service would enable the officers to immediately contact directly the person making the complaint. When somebody is in need of the police department, it would be nice to be able to respond in a few minutes as opposed to a half hour or an hour, or however long it takes to get to the premises or to a landline.

Furthermore, consistent cellular phone service would bring an additional time-saving benefit to Fort Fairfield. The Fort Fairfield Police Department recently received a federal

technology grant, which will allow the department to use laptops to run license and registration checks directly from their police cars. In order for the license and registration information to transmit to the in-car laptop, the laptops would need to work in conjunction with cellular phones. Therefore, to make the most out of the technology grant and get the in-car checking system running efficiently, we really need consistent cellular service. Currently, we would not be able to rely on the use of the in-car checking system because of the lack of cellular service in Fort Fairfield.

Finally, the expansion of cellular service into the town of Fort Fairfield would foster competition among the existing cellular and landline providers. The Department has been using Unicel for 8-10 years, but would be interested in a competitive service. Creating competition would increase the quality of cellular service and offer customers competitive prices.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DOCKET NO. 2004-246

**US CELLULAR
RE: APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER
UNDER 47 U.S.C § 214(e)(2)**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF ROBERT CLARK**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Robert Clark. I am the Executive Director for the Northern Maine Development Commission. My business address is 11 West Presque Isle Road, P.O. Box 779, Caribou, Maine 04736. I live in Fort Fairfield, Maine.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Fort Fairfield?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Fort Fairfield. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Fort Fairfield.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Fort Fairfield area?

A3. Yes. I am a U.S. Cellular customer. There is a lack of cellular signal coverage in downtown Fort Fairfield. On the rare occasion when you do get a signal, you get Canadian roaming charges, not only on the calls you make but also on incoming calls you receive. My calls resulted in

\$45 in roaming charges last month alone, and I have to call US Cellular every month to request that these Canadian roaming charges be reversed. Or, depending on where you are when you make a call, you get a signal locally but then the call will switch to roaming, causing you to lose the call in the middle of conversation. Route 1A, a main road in Fort Fairfield, runs parallel to the Canadian border, so this is a big problem throughout the town.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. The provision of cellular service in Fort Fairfield would be very beneficial to our business community. In my capacity as Executive Director for the Northern Maine Development Commission, I sometimes deal with business people looking to expand or relocate into Fort Fairfield. An important issue that comes up in speaking with these people is that of telecommunication services. Business development in Fort Fairfield heavily depends on having up-to-date, adequate telecommunications infrastructures, such as reliable cellular service. As it stands now, I don't know how people in Fort Fairfield conduct business by cellular phones at all. Furthermore, the tourism industry would be enhanced in Fort Fairfield if adequate cellular services were available. Many people who come to Fort Fairfield on vacation want to keep in contact with their businesses while they are away. They expect to have reliable cellular service like they do in less rural regions, and they are amazed that their cell phones do not work in Fort Fairfield. It causes quite a problem. The availability of cellular service would help the local economy by making Fort Fairfield a better business destination and a more attractive tourist spot.

Additionally, camera phones are an excellent tool for economic development, as they can be used to quickly transmit data, pictures, text messages, etc. However, without reliable cellular service, we are unable to take advantage of this tool.

Not only would consistent cellular service in Fort Fairfield enhance economic development efforts, but cellular service is critical for emergency services throughout the region. Many people who live in Fort Fairfield are in areas without a cellular signal. If landlines go down in an ice storm or blizzard, for example, cell phones become your only outside link.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DOCKET NO. 2004-246

**US CELLULAR
RE: APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER
UNDER 47 U.S.C § 214(e)(2)**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF ERIC DUMOND**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Eric Dumond. I am in charge of wood and fuel procurement for the Boralex power plants located in Maine, in Livermore Falls, Stratton, Ashland, and Fort Fairfield. I buy wood and fuel for all four power plants. My office is in Fort Fairfield, and my business address is P.O. Box 430, Fort Fairfield, Maine 04742. I live in Caribou, Maine.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Fort Fairfield?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine, and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Fort Fairfield. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary improvements to expand service into Fort Fairfield.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in Fort Fairfield?

A3. Yes. Cellular service is very spotty throughout Fort Fairfield, and really needs to be improved.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. Improved cellular service would make for better business communications. I do 90% of my business over the phone. I buy fuel for the four Maine Boralex biomass plants, purchasing from as far as Long Island, New York, all the way up through into Eastern Canada, all over New Brunswick, etc. I travel a lot and I rely on my cell phone to conduct business. It is pretty frustrating when I'm trying to complete a \$100,000 deal over the phone and my cellular connection cuts out on me.

Additionally, I deal with a lot of truckers who deliver wood to the plant. They carry cellular phones with them on their routes. They need to use their cell phones to call their dispatchers, in order to find out where they need to go for their next load, or to get other information. The truckers have expressed problems getting a hold of their dispatchers in the Fort Fairfield area, and they often need to come into our plant to use our office phone. It is very frustrating for them that they do not always have the communication they need.

Cellular communication is very import to me and many other people doing business here in Northern Maine. I don't know how we got by without cell phones years ago, but now that business is as fast-paced as it is, we really need them. Even up here, we are not just doing business within our own little community. We are global now, and we need to keep up with the rest of the world.

Having adequate communication is very important to us for safety reasons as well. Boralex Fort Fairfield is an industrial complex. The nature of the work we do here can be dangerous, and we have had accidents. Many of our workers have company cell phones. When

cellular service is available, people use them to communicate in and around the facility. If someone were injured around the outside facility, for example, cell phones could be used to get quickly get help. As it stands now, however, that might not be an option because service might not be available.

Further, the problem could come up where we are unable to call out in the event of an accident, for example, if our office phones are down. We do have radios at the plant, but there are times when they don't even work, for whatever reason, and we sometimes have power outages and shutdowns. We are making electricity on site, so lightning loves to come this way. We were hit five times in two weeks, and twice last week alone. Whenever this happens, we have to shut right down. We are running a steam turbine, which produces the electricity, and if all of a sudden we have a system shutdown, it has to be shut down immediately. Then, without power, our office phones do not work, and the only means of communication is through cell phones. Also, we burn wood to make the electricity, making us prone to fire on site. Again, if we had to shut power down, the only way to call the Fire Department in that situation is through cell phones, but they are not always reliable. If cellular service were reliable, cell phones would provide a good alternative method of communication whenever lightning, fire, or other problems shut down power.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DOCKET NO. 2004-246

**US CELLULAR
RE: APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER
UNDER 47 U.S.C § 214(e)(2)**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF PAUL DUREPO**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Paul Durepo. I am the Fire Chief for the Town of Fort Fairfield Fire Department, and have been for five years. The Town of Fort Fairfield Fire has a volunteer fire department, and I am currently the only fulltime employee. My business address is P.O. Box 350, Fort Fairfield, Maine 04742.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Fort Fairfield?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Fort Fairfield. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary improvements to expand service into Fort Fairfield.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in Fort Fairfield?

A3. Yes. There is almost no cell service in the Fort Fairfield. We experience problems in

low lying areas. For example, there is no service at all throughout Main Street, by the Aroostook River, or within the limits of downtown Fairfield.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. The Fort Fairfield Fire Department is the first responder with the ambulance service. Often times, the ambulance personnel will need to communicate sensitive information to us. Because we cannot get cellular service, we are unable to call back to get additional information. Without cellular service, all information would need to come through the radio. We cannot get on the radio and say, "Mrs. Johnson is in cardiac arrest." Sensitive information about a person's health cannot be transmitted over the radio because of confidentiality regulations, so sometimes important information is not passed on. There are patients who have been placed in jeopardy because of this problem. If we get cell service in Fort Fairfield, it would allow our Fire Department to communicate quickly and effectively with the ambulance service, greatly improving our ability to respond to emergencies.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DOCKET NO. 2004-246

**US CELLULAR
RE: APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER
UNDER 47 U.S.C § 214(e)(2)**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF JOHN HOUGHTON**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is John Houghton. I am currently serving my fifth year as a Town Councilor for the Town of Fort Fairfield, Maine. I am also a semi-retired seed potato farmer. My address is 37 Maple Grove Road, Fort Fairfield, Maine 04742.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Fort Fairfield?

A2. Yes. I am aware of the fact that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and is intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Fort Fairfield. As I understand it, US Cellular has applied for eligible telecommunications status with the Maine Public Utilities Commission. If the Commission approves US Cellular's application for this status, it will gain access to federal funds that will enable the company to make improvements in Fort Fairfield to improve service in our town.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in Fort Fairfield?

A3. Yes. It is poor. It is rare that we are able to get cell service in downtown. Elsewhere, the service is sporadic. You might get a call, but if you move at all, you could lose it.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. The improvement of cellular service in Fort Fairfield is entirely in the best interests of the town of Fort Fairfield. Cellular service would help our existing businesses to provide better service and help attract new business to our community. There are many instances when cellular service would be of great benefit to the day-to-day workings of our community. For example, if we had cell service here, fuel delivery trucks would be able to be in contact with their offices and would be able to get calls for delivery of home heating fuel. This is farming country, and today everyone carries a cellular phone on the tractor. It would be a great help if the service was better and we could communicate from the fields. But most importantly, the availability of cellular service would keep our citizens safer by allowing police, fire and safety personnel to communicate better with hospitals, dispatch, and accident victims.

The Town Council of the Town of Fort Fairfield has endorsed this position. At our meeting on July 25, 2004, the Council adopted a Resolution Supporting US Cellular's Application for Universal Service Funding. In that meeting we discussed US Cellular's proposed improvement of cellular service in the Fort Fairfield area and how it would impact our community. I have attached a copy of this Resolution as Exhibit Houghton-1 to this Testimony. As a resident and Town Councilor for the Town of Fort Fairfield, I endorse US Cellular's application for Universal Service Funding and encourage the Public Utilities Commission to approve its application.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

TOWN OF FORT FAIRFIELD

Resolution Supporting US Cellular's Application for Universal Service Funding.

WHEREAS, US Cellular has submitted an application to the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Maine (PUC) seeking to qualify for funding from the Federal Universal Services Fund, and

WHEREAS, US Cellular will represent to the PUC that, should it obtain PUC certification and become eligible for such funding, it will extend its cellular network to provide US Cellular service in the Town of Fort Fairfield, and

WHEREAS, the extension of US Cellular service to Fort Fairfield is a matter affecting the health, safety and well-being of the citizens of Fort Fairfield,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town Council of the Town of Fort Fairfield hereby adopts the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Fort Fairfield finds and declares that the extension of US Cellular service in the Town of Fort Fairfield would be in the public interest of the citizens of the Town. The availability of US Cellular service would:

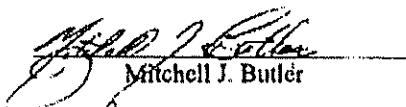
- (1) further the efficient delivery of basic services in the Town, including life saving fire, police and emergency medical service;
- (2) provide competition for the existing cellular and local (wire line) service providers in the Town;
- (3) contribute to the basic telecommunications infrastructure in the Town of Fort Fairfield and thereby enhance the Town's ability to retain its existing businesses and attract new businesses; and
- (4) improve mobile services in the Town, to the benefit of both Townspeople and through travelers.

John Houghton is hereby authorized to deliver this resolution to the Public Utilities Commission in support of US Cellular's application and to testify on behalf of the Town at any proceeding held by the Commission to consider US Cellular's application.

FORT FAIRFIELD TOWN COUNCILORS


John E. Houghton, Chairman


Ruel W. Flannery

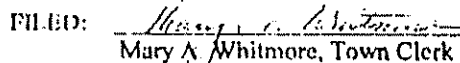

Mitchell J. Butler


David H. McCrea


Stey B. Rogeski

ATTEST: 
Mary A. Whitmore, Council Secretary

DATE: 07/28/2004

FILED: 
Mary A. Whitmore, Town Clerk

DATE: 07/30/2004

**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DOCKET NO. 2004-246

**US CELLULAR
RE: APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER
UNDER 47 U.S.C § 214(e)(2)**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF SUSIE JAMES**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Susie James. My husband, George James, and I own and run Lucerne Farms. We have 3500 acres of farms and facilities in four Aroostook County communities: Presque Isle, Fort Fairfield, Easton and Caribou. Our business, which is headquartered in Fort Fairfield, employs twenty Maine people growing, bagging, and marketing seven varieties of horse feed through a distribution network that includes 26 states and Mexico. One of the horses running in the Kentucky Derby this year was "powered" with our feed. My business address is P.O. Box 510, Fort Fairfield, Maine 04742. We live in Presque Isle.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Fort Fairfield?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine, and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Fort Fairfield. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public

Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary improvements to expand service into Fort Fairfield.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in Fort Fairfield?

A3. Yes. We have five cellular phones for farm use, but often have trouble with service because there are dead spots in the cellular service all over Fort Fairfield (and many dead spots all over Aroostook County too, for that matter). In fact, there is a dead spot between our office in Fort Fairfield and our home in Presque Isle, which means I can not complete any mobile calls going to or from work.

Our son is the general manager of Lucerne Farms, and he went to Toronto on business a few weeks ago. Our farm employees had no trouble reaching him on his cell phone in Toronto when they have questions for him. Because the cellular service in Fort Fairfield is so bad, our employees had a much easier time getting through to him on his cell phone in Toronto than if he were local.

We have experimented with every brand of cell phone - Nokia, Motorola, all of them - trying to improve the service we get but nothing does any good. I actually use an old bag phone and a long antenna. It still doesn't work very well and it's very inconvenient.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. From a farming standpoint, having more reliable cellular service would improve business and make farming more safe and convenient. Again, we have farming operations in four towns here in Aroostook County and having the ability, through high quality mobile service, to maintain continuous communications between the office and the people working in our satellite locations would greatly enhance the efficiency and convenience of our operations. Our

farm workers often haul farm products long distances, for example, from one of the farms to the plant where we make the horse feed. Many of these workers carry cellular phones on them while they work in the fields or when they drive our trucks. If the cellular service were reliable, they could depend on use of their phones in the event of an emergency, if they had questions, or if they needed something. It could be as simple as ordering a part in Caribou, for example.

Cellular phones could save them time. Also, cellular phones are handy for when farm workers are driving the big farm trucks around town, and in the fields. It is important that these workers be able to use their cell phones from the farm trucks because they need to let people back on the farm know their whereabouts, or, if they need help, they need to be able to call from the trucks.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DOCKET NO. 2004-246

**US CELLULAR
RE: APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER
UNDER 47 U.S.C § 214(e)(2)**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF SENATOR RICHARD
KNEELAND**

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Richard Kneeland. I have recently completed my second term as a member of the Maine Senate. Prior to my election as a Senator, I served four terms as a member of the Maine House of Representatives. I represent District 2 which includes the town of Fort Fairfield. My home address is 153 W Ridge Rd Easton, Maine 04740. I am a retired farmer and live in Fort Fairfield during the summer months.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to improve cellular service in the town of Fort Fairfield?

A2. Yes. I am aware that US Cellular provides cellular service in portions of my Senate District. I am also aware that US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from the federal Universal Service Fund. I understand that if it receives this funding, US Cellular plans to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to provide cellular service in Fort Fairfield.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the town of Fort Fairfield?

A3. Yes. There is no service at all in Fort Fairfield.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. In my capacity as Senator representing the town of Fort Fairfield, I know that the proposed improvements to local cellular service will be in the best interest of the community for several reasons. First, the availability of cellular service will greatly enhance the delivery of health and safety services. Better communication always equals better services and reliable cellular service would reduce emergency response times. Additionally, cellular service would positively impact the existing business community while encouraging new business development. More and more, the lack of cellular service in a community makes it difficult to attract and retain businesses. Small businesses in rural towns like Fort Fairfield have difficulty competing when they don't have the necessary communications infrastructure. Furthermore, the expansion of cellular service into the town of Fort Fairfield would foster competition among the existing cellular and landline providers. This can only benefit consumers.

The expansion of cellular service into the town of Fort Fairfield is in the public interest and for this reason I support US Cellular's application to receive the funding necessary to make these improvements.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF REPRESENTATIVE
JACQUELINE LUNDEEN**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Jacqueline Lundeen. I recently completed my second term as a member of the Maine House of Representatives. I represent District 144 which includes the town of Fort Fairfield. My business address is P.O. Box 471, Mars Hills, Maine 04758. I am a retired farmer and have lived in Mars Hill all of my life.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to improve cellular service in the town of Fort Fairfield?

A2. Yes. I am aware that US Cellular provides cellular service in portions of my House District. I am also aware that US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from the federal Universal Service Fund. I understand that if it receives this funding, US Cellular plans to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to provide cellular service in Fort Fairfield.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the town of Fort Fairfield?

A3. Yes. There is no service at all in most of Fort Fairfield. Additionally, my cellular phone service roams within a few miles of the Canadian border.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. The proposed improvements to local cellular service will be in the best interest of the community for several reasons. First, the availability of cellular service will greatly enhance the delivery of health and safety services. For example, one morning, I was driving to Augusta. The road was very icy and several cars had gone off of the road. I used my cell phone to call the State Police for emergency assistance. If hazardous road conditions in Fort Fairfield posed a similar situation, emergency assistance would have been seriously delayed, as cellular service would not have been available. Cellular service also provides a means for parents to communicate with their children when they are not at home, which is often desirable for safety reasons, as well as for convenience purposes. My sons are sixth generation farmers in Mars Hill, Maine. They all have cell phones strapped to their sides. Farmers often work with potentially dangerous machinery in remote field areas. Cellular service allows farmers to quickly seek emergency assistance in the event of an accident. Additionally, the use of cellular phones has a significant economic benefit in the farming business. Often times, if they know I am traveling in Presque Isle, they will call my cell phone and ask that I pick up supplies for the farm, conveniently saving time and money.

Having the convenience of cellular service in Fort Fairfield would provide a similar positive impact, helping the existing business community, as well as encouraging new business development. Furthermore, the expansion of cellular service into the town of Fort Fairfield would foster competition among the existing cellular and landline providers. I use Unice and have not been completely satisfied with the service that I have received. Creating competition would increase the quality of cellular service and benefit consumers.

I am really in favor of cellular phones. The expansion of cellular service into the town of Fort Fairfield is in the public interest and for this reason I support US Cellular's application to receive the funding necessary to make these improvements.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF SHERIFF JAMES P.
MADORE**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is James P. Madore. I have been the Sheriff of Aroostook County for the last three years. My business address is 26 Court Street, Suite #101, Houlton, Maine 04730.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Fort Fairfield?

A2. Yes. I am aware of the fact that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine. I understand that US Cellular is applying to the Maine Public Utilities Commission for eligibility to receive federal funds. If US Cellular can gain access to these funds, it will be able to provide cellular service in Fort Fairfield.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Fort Fairfield area?

A3. Yes. All of our patrol deputies and prisoner transport vehicles are equipped with cellular phones for use throughout the county, including Fort Fairfield. Because of the lack of a cellular tower in Fort Fairfield, we have problems with cellular service in and around the Fort Fairfield area.

A4. In today's age we rely heavily on cell phones. Having cell service in Fort Fairfield would really help us out. When a complaint is put through to the main office in Houlton, the dispatcher then uses the radio to call the responding deputies. The radios work well for the most part, but do not allow the deputies to call the complainant directly before arriving at the scene. The deputies must rely solely on the information they receive through the dispatcher in Houlton who spoke with the complainant. This third-party relay of information leaves room for error; vital information could be lost through this process. Additionally, certain information, due to confidentiality requirements, cannot be transmitted across the radio, so sometimes information is not passed on at all. Therefore, the deputies are placed in greater danger because they may not know all of the details regarding the call. Having cellular phone service throughout Fort Fairfield would alleviate this problem, allowing for one-on-one communication between the complainant and the responding deputy.

We really need cellular service in the Fort Fairfield area and I support US Cellular's efforts to become eligible to receive the funding necessary to bring service to Fort Fairfield.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF JAMES MCKENNEY**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is James McKenney. I am the Senior Manager of Crown Ambulance Services, which serves parts of Aroostook County, including Fort Fairfield. Crown Ambulance Services also has bases in Fort Fairfield, Maine and Limestone, Maine. My business address is 140 Academy Street, P.O. Box 151, Presque Isle, Maine. I live in Presque Isle, Maine.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Fort Fairfield?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Fort Fairfield. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary improvements to expand service into Fort Fairfield.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Fort Fairfield area?

A3. Yes. There are problems even getting signals in Fort Fairfield. If you do get a signal, it is usually through roaming off of a Canadian tower, resulting in long-distance charges.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. The biggest impact improved cellular service would have on our community are the safety benefits. Having cellular service in the Fort Fairfield area would greatly improve our ability to respond to emergencies. We currently communicate through radios, but those may also be unreliable, depending on where you are. Crown Ambulance Services has nine ambulances, six of which are currently equipped with cellular phones. We have four ambulance bases, in Fort Fairfield, Presque Isle, Mars Hill, and Limestone. Personnel from all four bases need to be able to communicate with each other, to convey important information, to determine ambulance locations, and to assist in making quick decisions regarding first response. The ability to rely on in-ambulance cellular service throughout our ambulance service region would permit such communication. However, because of the dead spots in Fort Fairfield and elsewhere, we cannot always rely on cellular phone communication during critical times.

Additionally, we use cellular phones to communicate with hospitals and doctors regarding patients, enabling us to get orders from a physician while commuting a patient to the hospital, as well as to relay information to the hospital so that the hospital can better prepare for the patient's arrival. The inability to talk to doctors and other hospital personnel regarding incoming patients could potentially put those patients in jeopardy, given a situation where immediate contact with a hospital were critical but no cellular service were available.

I also carry a personal cell phone. This allows co-workers to contact me, for example, if I were needed to come in to work early for an emergency. However, if I were in Fort Fairfield, I would not be able to get that call, or, at best, I would incur roaming charges. It would be nice to have the same conveniences and local charges that are available in less rural areas.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF SHAWN
MURCHISON**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Shawn Murchison. I am the Coordinator of Economic Development for the Town of Fort Fairfield. I am also the Executive Director for the Fort Fairfield Chamber of Commerce. My business address is 232 Main Street, Suite 4, P.O. Box 350, Fort Fairfield, Maine 04742.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Fort Fairfield?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Fort Fairfield. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Fort Fairfield.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Fort Fairfield area?

A3. Yes. I am a U.S. Cellular customer. We have no cell service at all in the downtown of Fort Fairfield, so as soon as you get close to the populated area of town, you lose signal. Also, as you get closer to the Canadian border, cellular service switches to roaming service, which carries additional fees.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. The provision of cellular service in Fort Fairfield is entirely in the best interests of our community. In my dual capacities as Coordinator of Economic Development for the Town of Fort Fairfield and Executive Director for the Fort Fairfield Chamber of Commerce, I deal with businesses and sales people on a regular basis. I try to get businesses into the Town of Fort Fairfield for economic development purposes. When we do get visiting sales people and businesspeople in town, they all carry cell phones, and are frustrated by the lack of cellular service. In fact, I hear many complaints about the unavailability of service in Fort Fairfield. People know that when they come into Fort Fairfield they will not have cellular services, and it is frustrating. The economic development of the region depends on having the required infrastructure, such as cellular service, to support a thriving business community. The availability of cellular service would make this a more attractive business destination.

In addition to the economic benefit that cellular service would bring to Fort Fairfield, emergency response teams would greatly benefit from the availability of cellular service. Our Fire Department operates, for the most part, on a volunteer basis. All Fire Department volunteers carry cellular phones so that they may be called in to help in the event of a fire. Additionally, the Fort Fairfield Police Department is a small force, and all police officers carry cellular phones. Emergency personnel rely heavily on the ability to quickly communicate with each other, to efficiently share

information, to call for back up, etc. Cellular phone service would be a vast resource for this purpose.

The expansion of cellular service in Fort Fairfield would be a great municipal improvement, both for safety reasons and for the support of the business community.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
UNITED STATES CELLULAR
REQUEST FOR ETC DESIGNATION
DOCKET NO. 2004-246**

LOCAL WITNESS TESTIMONY

Jonesport

**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DOCKET NO. 2004-246

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF DWIGHT CARVER**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Dwight Carver. I am a fisherman out of Beals, Maine. My business address is P.O. Box 131, Beals, Maine 04611. I have been a fisherman in the Jonesport/Beals area for over 30 years, and have lived in the area over 50 years.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the Jonesport area?

A2. Yes. US Cellular is a cellular service provider and I understand they are proposing to provide and improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine, including Jonesport. I understand that US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify to receive federal funds that would enable them to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Jonesport and other areas in Maine.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Jonesport area?

A3. Yes. It is not good. The only way I can get any cellular service at all from my boat is by using an old bag phone with a large marine cellular antenna, which has to be left on board the boat. A small hand held phone would be much better because I could carry it around, but the handheld cell phones are useless out on the water, they get no reception at all out there.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. Industry in Jonesport and Beals is pretty much limited to fishing. Being able to communicate from the water would be a tremendous asset to the fishing business and to the community. A reliable, carry around cellular phone would give me better access to whatever services that I might need. If you are alone on your boat, you could jump right on the cell phone and call Church's True Value, or any of those places, for supplies or other things that fishermen need on the water. For example, I may need to contact a diesel dealer from the water. If I can't get one on VHF radio, I could try the cell phone. I also need to be able to communicate from the water regarding sales of fish and crabs. Reliable cellular service would allow me to get messages through to markets before coming to shore. VHF is not always a successful means of reaching local merchants, especially if they are traveling. If we all had cellular reception, business would be conducted much more efficiently – on the road, on the water, or wherever.

Not only would cellular communication help for business purposes, but fishing would be a lot safer if the 200-250 boats out on the water could quickly get in touch with each other by cell phone in the event of an emergency. A lot of the fishermen around here know each other, and could share cell phone numbers so that, in an emergency, they could call other boats directly, instead of trying to reach help on VHF radio. The ability to quickly reach other boats that are already in nearby water would be an added convenience and safety measure.

Expanding cellular service into the Jonesport-Beals area would be a tremendous benefit to the community.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF CRAIG CHURCH**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Craig Church. I am the owner of Moosabec Marine located on Main Street in Jonesport, Maine. I have operated my business in Jonesport since 1989.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Jonesport?

A2. Yes. US Cellular is a cellular service provider and I understand they are proposing to provide and improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Jonesport. I understand that US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify to receive federal funds that would enable them to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Jonesport and other areas in Maine.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Jonesport area?

A3. Yes. I do not own a cell phone at this time because every time you try to use a cell phone in town it is either completely dead or you are able to get only bits and pieces of a call, depending on where you are.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. We get calls very often from folks out on their boats, for various reasons. For example, there are many commercial fishermen in Jonesport, and they often try to contact me for things like parts, or to line up service when they come to shore. I know they try to call because I am usually able to make out the number of the incoming cellular call, but I am only able to get bits and pieces of the call, so the contact is unsuccessful. Most fishing vessels do have VHF radios, but I do not have the time to constantly monitor those signals from my business. If cellular service in the area were reliable, I could hear my cell phone ringing without the constant need to watch it, and my business would be enhanced. The fisherman could rely on cellular phones to contact me for parts or service before they came to shore, saving valuable fishing time.

Cellular service would not only benefit fishing vessels, but a fair share of tourists often try to contact me by cell phone, just to get directions, or wanting somebody to meet them at the dock with supplies, or even for a ride. For example, a lady was out on her sailboat, and needed to send an urgent fax as soon as possible. Luckily, she happened to be in one of the few spots out on the water where she was able to get a signal. We were able to meet her and give her a ride in a motor boat to send the fax. If she had not been able to get through to us on her cell phone for a ride, she would have had a four hour sail, as opposed to a 15 minute motor boat ride, before getting to a fax machine.

Even more important than the time and money-saving benefits are the safety benefits that cellular service would provide. Fishermen and others on the water may try to call when they are having boat trouble and need help. A cellular phone could be a lifesaver if a vessel were dead in the water and the people on board needed to contact help in a hurry.

In sum, from the standpoint of a marine owner, it would be nice to have cellular service in the Jonesport area. If cellular service was expanded into Jonesport and cellular signals were consistent throughout the area, I would certainly become a cellular customer.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF JOHN CHURCH**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is John Church. I am the owner of Church's True Value Hardware located on Main Street in Jonesport, Maine. I have operated my business in Jonesport for over twenty years and have lived in Jonesport all of my life.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Jonesport?

A2. Yes. US Cellular is a cellular service provider and I understand they are proposing to provide and improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Jonesport. I understand that US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify to receive federal funds that would enable them to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Jonesport and other areas in Maine.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Jonesport area?

A3. Yes. Service is very poor here in town. The nearest tower is 30 miles away. I have a cell phone and can get service on it in some parts of town, but not others. For example, I have no

cell service on one part of my property, but I can usually get a signal if I walk to another part of my property.

From a business standpoint, the very spotty service is a real hindrance. When I am on the road, I often can't be contacted by customers or employees at the hardware store. When calling each other on the cell phone here in town, we often have to leave voicemails as the party you are trying to call is out of range.

Jonesport is a fishing community. There is no cell service down in the harbor, although they eventually get service as they motor out to sea. The fishermen rely on me to get parts for their boats and it is frustrating when they can't contact me from the harbor on their cell phones. This is very inconvenient as they have to come ashore to arrange for parts.

Q4. Does this complete your testimony?

A4. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF MICHAEL CHURCH**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Michael Church. I am a construction contractor working out of Jonesport, Maine. My business address is P.O. Box 88, Jonesport, Maine 04649.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Jonesport?

A2. Yes. US Cellular is a cellular service provider and I understand they are proposing to provide and improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Jonesport. I understand that US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify to receive federal funds that would enable them to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Jonesport and other areas in Maine.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Jonesport area?

A3. Yes. I use cellular phones for both personal use and business purposes. We have four cell phones in my household. The one that I use for business purposes is an old, large, clunky bag phone, because it often provides better reception than the small handheld phones, although it is not as practical. In downtown Jonesport, if you are not in exactly the right spot,

you cannot get any reception at all. I often work on islands, so we have to travel back and forth to job sites by boat. Cellular service is very problematic out on the water. You can be in your own local zone but the cell phones still do not pick up the local signal, so you get Canadian roaming charges, not only on the calls you make but also on incoming calls you receive. Therefore, every month you have to go over your confusing bill and sort through all of your charges to determine if any of the Canadian roaming charges were in fact local calls. US Cellular would adjust the bill, but by the time you sort through it all and contact US Cellular about the roaming charges, you have already wasted a lot of valuable time.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. Construction work can often be dangerous. Workers are often high up on rooftops and staging, working with heavy equipment. Therefore, it is important that we can quickly call for help from the job site in the event of an emergency. Because of the inconsistency and unreliability of cellular service in and around Jonesport, one of the first things I have to do on every job site is to install a landline for a portable telephone that we can use on site. I often have to replace these phones, since they tend to get wet or damaged being left on construction sites. Maintaining these landlines is both costly and inconvenient. Further, landline service does not necessarily include a voicemail system or an answering machine, so the convenience of a messaging system on a landline would be an additional expense. If I could rely on my own cell phone to work consistently, there would be no need to go through the burdensome process of installing landlines at each job site.

In addition to needing a phone on the job sites for safety reasons, reliable cellular service would also be beneficial from a business standpoint. I need to be able to make and receive calls when I am on job sites, as well as while I am in my truck. I often need to order things that could

be delivered to the site, or that I can pick up on my way. Further, clients and potential clients often try to contact me while I am in my truck, but I cannot always get these calls because of the inconsistent cellular service throughout Jonesport. Or, if I do get cellular calls, I get charged for roaming.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF BOYDE CROWLEY**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Boyde Crowley. I am the Fire Chief for the Town of Jonesport Fire Department, and have been for six years. I've been on the department since about the 1980. The Town of Jonesport has a volunteer fire department, and I am currently the only paid employee. My business address is P.O. Box 489, Jonesport, Maine 04649. I live in Jonesport.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Jonesport?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Jonesport. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary improvements to expand service into Jonesport.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in Jonesport?

A3. Yes. There is almost no cell service in the Jonesport. There are some spots at

higher ground levels where you might get some service, depending on the weather, but even when you do get some service it is so sketchy that it is hard to get people to understand what you are saying.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. From an emergency personnel perspective, cell phones would be greatly beneficial. We would certainly keep a cellular phone in the fire truck if service were reliable. We considered getting a cellular phone for the truck at one time, but we figured there would not be much point in doing so because of the lack of service throughout most of the area. We would have to run to the highest spot we could find, just to try and get a signal to make a call that we could wind up losing. That would not be very helpful in an emergency. Therefore, when we are on an emergency run, the only communication system we have is the radio system, which is dispatched through the Regional Communications Center ("RCC"). However, in Jonesport, two-way radio reception is not even that great, and on occasion I have been unable to get through to the RCC on my radio. I've had to run around to neighbors' houses for a landline in order to get through to the RCC, because I could not reach them on my cell phone or on the radio. Further, if a major emergency happens, the radio airwaves could become clogged with transmissions. Cellular phones would lessen the RCC's burden, so that a crisis could be handled much more efficiently and safely. For example, if we needed food, water, or other supplies, we could use cellular phones to contact the source directly, instead of having to go through the RCC and have them make the call.

The time-saving convenience of cellular service would not only benefit our department, but could help the whole community, particularly when one comes across trouble. For instance,

on two different occasions, while driving on Route 187 between Jonesport and Addison (about 5 miles from Jonesport), I came across car accidents. Both times, I tried to use my cell phone to call for help for the accident victims, who were injured and needed immediate medical assistance. I needed to contact the Addison Fire Department and ambulance service, but I could not even get through to 911 on my cellular phone. Both times, I ran to the nearest landline, banging on people's doors. I finally got help, but precious time was wasted. Time can be a matter of life or death in an emergency, and cellular phones save time.

There are also personal reasons why reliable cellular phone service is important to me. In fact, the reason we got our personal family cell phone is for my wife and I to stay in touch with our son who is away at college. It would be nice if he were able to reach us when we were not at home, and it would be nice not to lose the call when we are traveling and approach the Jonesport area. It would be nice for the community, all around, to have reliable, consistent cellular service.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF VALERIE GRAY**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Valerie Gray. I am an Emergency Medical Technician for the Moosabec Ambulance Service, which serves Jonesport and Beals, and also serves as back up to surrounding towns in eastern Washington County. My business address is P.O. Box 164, Jonesport, Maine. I live in Jonesport, Maine.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Jonesport?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine, and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine, including Jonesport. As I understand it, based on my discussions with the company's representatives, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary improvements to expand service into Jonesport.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Jonesport area?

A3. Yes. There is a lack of cellular service in the downtown Jonesport area, making

cellular phones very difficult to use in personal vehicles or in ambulances. For instance, I live two miles outside of downtown Jonesport. There is a spot in my driveway where I am able to get a signal and can make a call, but I lose that call as soon as I start to drive down the slope in the driveway. We do have cellular phones in the ambulance vehicles, but we are not always able to use them because of the dead spots throughout the Jonesport area. This is a problem and it really makes you feel like you are lost in the boonies.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. Cellular service would improve safety and emergency response throughout the community. Ambulance personnel really need to communicate with the hospital in Machias regarding the patients as we bring them in. Sometimes we have to call from the emergency scene from the ambulance, or while still in town, for example, to quickly get a doctor's orders. If you cannot get a cellular signal, you have to rely on the ambulance radio to get that critical information. Also, I do not like to give patient reports over the radio. If I did, then sensitive information would be broadcast for the whole County to hear. Handheld radio service for crew member to crew member conversations, locally, might also be inconsistent or interrupted, due to bad weather or environmental factors, or simply because radio transmissions become jammed. For these reasons, cellular phones serve as an excellent backup for when radios are either inappropriate or unavailable, but a cell phone cannot be an effective tool without effective cellular service.

Further, in the event of a mass casualty or an emergency of any great magnitude, there really needs to be communication between our ambulance service and other ambulance services nearby, to discuss the severity of injuries, to determine how many response ambulances are necessary, and to determine ambulance locations and other important information. Reliable

cellular service would be a much more private and efficient method of communicating critical information if such a situation presented itself. When an emergency occurs, things are hectic at the communications center, and the dispatch officers have their hands full. It would help to be able to communicate from ambulance to ambulance without the need to go through the dispatch every time. Also, with cellular service throughout the entire area, additional emergency workers who were off duty could be contacted no matter where they were, to get them in to help out in an emergency, or to bring needed equipment or supplies.

Q5. Does your ambulance service utilize LifeFlight, a statewide critical response medical helicopter service?

A5. Yes, occasionally. When we need LifeFlight, it is there for us. However, emergency personnel arriving at the scene could potentially have to make an immediate, critical decision to contact LifeFlight. Cellular phones could expedite this process, while having to go through dispatch to get LifeFlight in an emergency could cost critical minutes.

Having cell service in the Jonesport area would greatly improve our ability to respond to emergencies.

Q6. Does this complete your testimony?

A6. Yes.

**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DOCKET NO. 2004-246

**US CELLULAR
RE: APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER
UNDER 47 U.S.C § 214(e)(2)**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF CHIEF DEPUTY
SHERIFF SIDNEY
HUGHES**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Sidney Hughes. I am the Chief Deputy of the Washington County Sheriff's Office, and have been for seven years. The town of Jonesport is within our jurisdiction. My business address is 47 Court Street, Machias, Maine 04654. I live in Lubec.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the Town of Jonesport?

A2. Yes. I am aware of the fact that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine. I understand that US Cellular is applying to the Maine Public Utilities Commission for eligibility to receive federal funds. If US Cellular can gain access to these funds, it will be able to provide cellular service in Jonesport.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Jonesport area?

A3. Yes, it is spotty at best. In fact, there are only a couple of places you can get service in Jonesport. Our patrol cars are equipped with cellular phones for use throughout the County. We need to be able to communicate between the Sheriff's Office in Machias and the other towns that we

serve, including Jonesport. Because of the lack of a cellular tower in Jonesport, we have problems with cellular service in and around the Jonesport area. Officers traveling through Jonesport know they have to wait until they leave the Jonesport area before they can communicate through cell phones. The officers do have two-way radios in their cars, but radio transmission signals also have dead spots in some areas (though they are not as bad as the dead spots for cellular service).

Q4. How would the availability of cellular service affect your work and your community?

A4. When somebody needs our assistance, a call comes into the main office in Machias. The call is then dispatched through a radio system to an officer, who usually responds by going to the residence from which the call comes. Some situations to which our deputies must respond can be dangerous. For example, we often receive complaints of domestic violence. With reliable cellular service, officers could maintain contact with the complainant, as the officers could call the complainant back immediately upon receiving the dispatch. Officers could ask the complainant important questions (and get immediate answers) to such inquiries as "is the perpetrator still in the house?" or "does he have a gun?" If the perpetrator does have a gun, this is something the officer would want to know before coming through the door, and if the officer had a working cellular phone handy, he could quickly call for back up before entering the premises. Again, radio systems can be used, but that type of communication can be picked up on police scanners, which many people up here listen to regularly. If officers were able to make these inquiries from a car cellular phone, sensitive information would not need to be broadcast over the radio system for anyone with these scanners to hear. Also, the use of cellular phones in these situations would be more efficient and more accurate than radio dispatch because you would be cutting out the middle man. This would

save the responding officer a step, and would also free the dispatch officer up to take care of other things, like calling an ambulance or other emergency personnel if needed.

Additionally, reliable cellular phone use would save our deputies valuable time in their day-to-day routine. For instance, officers often need to call the main office from their cars for routine communications, such as warrant checks. Again, radio broadcasts are not the most private or efficient way to share such information. Also, we get "911 hang up" calls from time to time where a person calls 911 but hangs up before we can talk to him or her. With working cell phones readily available, officers, using Caller ID, could call the number from which the 911 hang up call came. The officers could then speak directly to the person at that number to determine if assistance is really needed. If the call was made in error, it would be nice to know that ahead of time, so that the officer would not have to go all the way to the residence just to find out if somebody there actually needs help or not.

For all of these safety and convenience reasons, I feel that cellular service needs to be expanded into Jonesport and other rural parts of Maine.

By the way, my wife and I live in Lubec and commute to our jobs in Machias. My wife works nights and drives home alone. In the 26 miles between Lubec and Machias there are numerous dead spots where the cell phone doesn't work. Getting cell service into this area would be a big convenience and would also enhance public safety. I hope U.S.Cellular would consider using some of this funding to improve service in that part of Washington County as well.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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**US CELLULAR
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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF TOM KING**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Tom King. I am the owner of T.A. King & Sons, Inc., a lumber yard and supply company located in Jonesport, Maine. I have lived in Jonesport since 1975 and my family has operated our lumber business in Jonesport since 1975.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Jonesport?

A2. Yes. US Cellular is a cellular service provider and I understand they are proposing to provide and improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Jonesport. I understand that US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify to receive federal funds that would enable them to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Jonesport and other areas in Maine.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Jonesport area?

A3. Yes. It is not good. Being in a bottleneck area, it is very hard to get a signal in Jonesport. I do not own a cellular phone at this time because it is so hard to get a signal. I tried an old bag phone once before and got some service on that, but it was not convenient. I wanted

to have a handheld cell phone to carry around the yard, but that didn't pan out because the service is so poor.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. Improved cellular service in the Jonesport area would make for better business all around. Many of my customers and salespeople use cellular phones to conduct business. Being isolated down here, you really need to be reachable by phone. I am always on the phone. I have two landlines and they are often both busy. Having a cellular phone as a back up would keep my business flowing even better. But because cellular service is not reliable in the area, business can be hindered. If we could just pick up our cell phones and know we are going to get a signal, we would be able to communicate quicker, which would expedite sales. Also, valuable time could be saved if we could rely on cellular phones when we are on the road. For example, salespeople could be contacted in their vehicles, to make various stops between points A and B, instead of first making a trip back up to the lumber yard.

Additionally, I sell certain marine and lobster supplies, so I deal with a lot of fishermen and lobstermen, and I know most of them have cell phones. It is often easier to get in touch with the Coast Guard through a cell phone as opposed to the radios because there is so much clutter on the radios sometimes. Even if they cannot reach the Coast Guard on the phone or radio, they can use a cell phone to call someone else in town, and that person could run down the street to the Coast Guard base and get help, so cell phones are good to have on the boats for safety reasons. Lobstermen should be able to rely on cellular service throughout the entire harbor, but they cannot always get a signal, especially when they are close to Jonesport.

The business and fishing industries in Jonesport would greatly benefit from having reliable cellular service.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF TONIA MERCHANT**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Tonia Merchant. For about four years, I have been the Office Manager for the Jonesport Town Office. My business address is Main Street, P.O. Box 489, Jonesport, Maine 04649. I have lived in Jonesport for most of my life.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Jonesport?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine, and I understand that they intend to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Jonesport. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Jonesport.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Jonesport area?

A3. Yes. I am a U.S. Cellular customer. The cell service in Jonesport is terrible. There are only a few high level places where you can get a signal, for example, up on the bridge, but

reception is still poor. In most of Jonesport, you have to have an antenna in order to get any signal at all, and even then you only get a couple of bars, so you can barely make a call, and there is a lot of static. Also, according to the US Cellular plan that I have, adding an antenna, which I was only able to purchase through Unicef, will nullify the US Cellular warranty. Further, I purchased a new phone and a new cellular service plan about a year ago, thinking that the new phone would improve the service, but it did not. I am dissatisfied with the cellular service in Jonesport.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. Family life would benefit from the availability of reliable cellular phones. I am married to a fisherman, and he keeps a cell phone on his boat. However, the cellular phones only work in the harbor if the boat is far enough out on the water so that land is not blocking the signal. Additionally, if I am not at home, my husband could not necessarily reach me on my cell phone anyhow, because I am likely somewhere in Jonesport where I cannot get good reception on my end. If we both had working cell phones that we could carry around at all times, we would be able to keep in contact no matter where we were.

I could also keep better connected to my children if we had reliable cellular service throughout Jonesport.

It would be nice to be able to stay in touch with my husband and children, both for convenience as well as for safety. In fact, there are many safety reasons why cellular service would benefit our community. For example, many people enjoy snowmobiling and four-wheeling, and other dangerous sports and activities. They take their cell phones with them in case of an emergency, but basically they hope that nothing happens, because the chances of getting service if something happened is not good.

Reliable cellular service would also serve as a safety measure for car traveling. I used to work for the postal service, as a rural carrier, using my own personal vehicle. I would drive along rural roads alone, sometimes in inclement weather. If I broke down or got in an accident, I sure would want to be able to use my cell phone to call for help and to keep in contact with another person while I waited for help.

Having reliable cellular service in Jonesport would also improve the town's tourism industry. I hear a lot of complaints from tourists, who come to the Town Office to complain and to find out why they cannot get cellular service. Some of them are surprised that, in this day and age, their cell phones are basically useless in Jonesport. They have to use our outdoor payphone, and they are not too happy about it.

For all of these reasons, I believe that the provision of reliable cellular service in Jonesport is entirely in the best interests of our community.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

**STATE OF MAINE
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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF EDWARD PELLON**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Edward Pellon. Since 1984, I have owned a plumbing and heating business in Machias, and I also own and rent residential and commercial real estate in towns in the Washington County area, including Jonesport. I will soon complete my first term (and I am running for re-election) in Maine House District 32, which includes the town of Jonesport. I served 18 years as a Selectman for Machias. My business address is P.O. Box 381, Machias, Maine. I live in Machias.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Jonesport?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine, and I have been advised that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine, including Jonesport. US Cellular has filed an application in this proceeding with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify to receive funding from the Universal Service Fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission determines that US Cellular is eligible for this funding, it will be

able to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Jonesport and other parts of rural Maine.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in Jonesport?

A3. Yes. Jonesport is a bad area, and it is not just Jonesport, but a lot of other area is dead, including places before you get into Jonesport, like Joneboro. In fact, if I go 6 miles outside of my home in Machias, I am likely to be in a dead spot.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. As a business owner and as a landlord, I really depend on my four cellular phones to make and receive important phone calls. My customers, salespeople, and tenants also depend on my being reachable by cell phone, since I am on the road a lot, and people might need to get a hold of me in a hurry for various reasons. For example, I own 84 units of elderly housing throughout Jonesport, Lubec, and other areas. Often times, somebody may need to reach me to deal with a problem, such as a sewer back up or other tenant or housing problem. Because of all of the dead spots in the areas I travel, I may not be reachable for quite some time. This could cause safety problems, especially in the winter.

Also, I lease space to Meals for ME, a service that feeds about 60 people on-site in a dining room in one of the elderly housing units. The people that run Meals for ME may need to contact me if there are problems in the kitchen, for example, if the large walk-in freezer was not working properly, or if the grease traps clogged up and I need to send one of the plumbers over to take care of it.

Finally, it is just plain inconvenient not to be able to rely on cellular phones to communicate for business purposes. Just recently a salesman called me from near Jonesport but we were not able

to talk because of the poor reception, so he had to go and find a different location to call me back. Things like that happen all the time. Poor cellular service really slows down business sometimes.

I support US Cellular's Application for ETC designation in this case and its plans to build a cellular tower in the Jonesport area.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF RALPH SMITH**

Q1. Please state your name, affiliation, title and business address.

A1. My name is Ralph Smith. I am the First Selectmen for the Town of Jonesport. I also am the owner of Moosabec Mussels. My business address is P.O. Box 267, Jonesport, Maine 04649. I live in Jonesport.

Q2. Are you familiar with US Cellular and its proposal to provide cellular service in the town of Jonesport?

A2. Yes. I know that US Cellular provides cellular service in many parts of Maine and I understand that they are intending to improve cellular service in various parts of rural Maine including Jonesport. As I understand it, US Cellular has filed an application with the Maine Public Utilities Commission seeking to qualify for funding from a federal fund. If the Maine Public Utilities Commission approves US Cellular's application for this funding, it will be able to make the necessary infrastructure improvements to expand service into Jonesport.

Q3. Are you familiar with the quality of cellular service in the Jonesport area?

A3. Yes. I am a US Cellular customer. We are almost totally out of service in the town of Jonesport. There may be a few very tight spots where you can get a signal, but you

would have to learn and remember the exact location of those tight spots. Otherwise, your cell phone is basically useless in Jonesport, yet charges still show up on my cellular phone bill for attempted incoming or outgoing calls, even though they were unsuccessful. I am very concerned about the problems that we have with cellular service in Jonesport and I have contacted US Cellular about it. Personally, I have tried everything possible to get a cellular signal in Jonesport from my cell phone. I have purchased many different brands of phones, better antennae, upgrades, and other accessories, spending about \$400 trying to get extra output, but nothing works. The bottom line is we need a tower in the Jonesport area.

Q4. How will the proposed improvements affect your community?

A4. There are two major ways in which reliable cellular service would help our community: safety improvements and business development. The Town of Jonesport is a fishing community. At any given time, there may be 200 or more fishing boats in Moosabec area, which is a lot when you consider there are fewer than 6,000 people in all of the four towns in the area, Jonesport, Beals, Columbia Falls, and Addison. There are of course no landlines on the water, so all of these boats need to rely 100% on cellular phones or VHF radios if they need to reach somebody from out on the water. Unfortunately, however, these fishermen are unable to rely on cell phones. Because of the lack of cellular service in the Jonesport area, reception on the water is unlikely. Fishing can be a dangerous business. A lot of things can happen out on the water. Boats can break down, storms can hit, people can get hurt. The ability to quickly call for help could be critical to save a vessel and/or the people on board, and cellular service on the water would provide a quick way to call for help.

Having cellular service in Jonesport would also benefit the community from a business standpoint. I am the owner of Moosabec Mussel. I have had customers call my cell phone and leave messages to place mussel orders, or to increase or decrease their orders. However, I am unable to retrieve these messages unless and until I leave the Jonesport area because you cannot access messages until you are in a cellular service area, which Jonesport is not. I do business nationally, and my customers from more populated, urban areas are very surprised by the problems that we have with the lack of cellular service. I have to tell them not to leave a message on my cell phone if they call it and I do not answer. This causes a huge inconvenience and potentially a loss of business. People in Jonesport should be able to rely on cellular phones to keep tabs on their businesses, as is done most everywhere else. Having a cellular tower in Jonesport would really tie us in to the rest of the business world.

The Board of Selectmen for the Town of Jonesport has endorsed this position. At our meeting on August 18, 2004, the Board adopted a Resolution Supporting US Cellular's Application for Universal Service Funding. In that meeting we discussed US Cellular's proposed expansion into the Jonesport area and how it would impact our community. I have attached a copy of this Resolution as Exhibit Smith-1 to this Testimony.

The provision of cellular service in Jonesport is entirely in the best interests of our community. As a resident, business owner, and First Selectman for the Town of Jonesport, I endorse US Cellular's application for Universal Service Funding and encourage the Public Utilities Commission to approve its application.

Q5. Does this complete your testimony?

A5. Yes.

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P.O. Box 489

Jonesport, ME 04649

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING US CELLULAR'S APPLICATION FOR UNIVERSAL
SERVICE FUNDING

WHEREAS, US Cellular has submitted an application to the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Maine (PUC) seeking to qualify for funding from the federal Universal Services Fund, and

WHEREAS, US Cellular will represent to the PUC that, should it obtain PUC certification and become eligible for such funding, it will extend its cellular network to provide US Cellular service in the Town of Jonesport, and

WHEREAS, the extension of US Cellular service to Jonesport is a matter affecting the health, safety and well-being of the citizens of Jonesport,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town Council of the Town of Jonesport hereby adopts the following Resolution:

Resolved, that the Town Council of the Town of Jonesport finds and declares that the extension of US Cellular service in the Town of Jonesport would be in the public interest of the citizens of the Town. The availability of US Cellular service would

- (1) further the efficient delivery of basic services in the Town, including life saving fire, police, and emergency medical service;
- (2) increase the safety and prosperity of the fishing industry in Moosabec Harbor, Jonesport.
- (3) provide competition for the existing cellular and local (wire line) service providers in the Town;
- (4) contribute to the basic telecommunications infrastructure in the Town of Jonesport and thereby enhance the Town's ability to retain its existing businesses and attract new businesses; and
- (5) improve mobile services in the Town, to the benefit of both Townspeople and through travelers.

Ralph Smith is hereby authorized to attach a copy of this resolution to his pre-filed testimony, which will be submitted to the Public Utilities Commission in support of US Cellular's application.



Ralph L. Smith, Sr., First Selectman

Howard B. Mills, Jr., Second Selectman



Catherine F. Perry, Third Selectman

Board of Selectmen

TOWN OF JONESPORT

Date: August 18, 2004